

### **REMARKS**

The Examiner suggested that the abstract be amended. In such circumstances, applicant's attorney has deleted the abstract and submitted a new abstract in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 27, 2006.

Claims 4-6 and 11 have been objected to by the Examiner. In response thereto, Claims 4 and 5 have been amended so as to depend only from Claim 1, while Claims 6 and 11 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection to Claims 6 and 11.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. With the entry of this Amendment, Claim 3 has been amended to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mayer U.S. Patent No. 3,322,288. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons. The rejections to Claims 7-10 have been obviated by the cancellation herein of these claims.

The present invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, relates to a device for detachably holding a transverse rod supported by at least two supporting arms. The device includes an adaptor (5) having a basic body (50) and an arcuate cutout (51) with a through-passage direction (R) situated transversely to the supporting arm (3,3) and axially to the secured transverse rod (7). The adaptor also includes upwardly extending prongs (54) and a pair of lugs (52) continuing at each of the free, upper ends of the prongs (54), the lugs being directed toward one another and into the cutout (51). The

device also includes an insert (6) having a half-shell shape in principle and includes two ends (60,61) projecting into the room and leaving between the two ends (60, 61) the opening. The insert also includes a curved inner face (63) and a curved outer face (64), a groove (65) extending circularly on the outer face (64), terminating at a distance in front of the ends (60,61) and sized and shaped so as to partially receive the adaptor (5), and an aperture (62) present at each of the terminations of the groove (65) and sized and shaped so as to engage the lugs (52). As a result of applicant's novel arrangement, a transverse rod can be secured against rotation in view of the lugs.

It is respectfully submitted that the Mayer patent does not anticipate or make obvious the present invention as recited in amended independent Claim 1. For instance, the Mayer patent discloses a clothing display rack assembly, which includes adaptor units 6a, 6b, 6c with neck portions 28 (which the Examiner equates to as the adaptor of the present invention) and hangrod receiving members 40a, 40b, 40c (which the Examiner equates to as the insert of the present invention). The neck portions 28 disclosed in the Mayer patent are structurally different than the adaptor recited in amended Claim 1. For example, whereas the neck portions 28 disclosed in the Mayer patent do **not** include lugs, the adaptor of the present invention includes lugs continuing at each of the upper ends of the prongs and being directed toward one another and into the cutout, which is now recited in amended Claim 1.

Also, the hangrod receiving members 40a, 40b, and 40c disclosed in the Mayer patent are structurally different than the insert recited in amended Claim 1. More particularly, the hangrod receiving members do **not** include specific components of the insert of the present invention, as recited in amended Claim 1 (i.e., the groove **(65)**, first and second apertures **(62)**, etc.).

In view of at least the distinctions discussed in the preceding paragraphs, it is respectfully submitted that the Mayer patent fails to disclose or to suggest the device recited in amended Claim 1. In such circumstances, amended Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, along with all of the claims depending therefrom (i.e., Claims 2-5).

Gould U.S. Patent No. 275,481, Fowlkes U.S. Patent No. 3,731,817, Elkins U.S. Patent No. 4,991,723, and Kluge U.S. Patent No. 6,053,465 have not been cited against the pending claims. Applicant's attorney is in agreement with the Examiner concerning the relevance of these references to the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant's attorney respectfully requests reexamination and allowance of pending Claims 1-5. If such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is cordially invited to place a telephone call to applicant's attorney in order that any outstanding issue may be resolved without the issuance of a further Office Action.

Appln. No. 10/559,805  
Amendment dated December 22, 2006  
Reply to Office Action mailed June 27, 2006

Enclosed is a Petition for a three-month extension of time to and including December 22, 2006, for which a \$1,020.00 fee is due. The Petition authorizes the Examiner to charge this \$1,020 fee to Deposit Account No. 503571. If there are any additional fees, including extension and petition fees, which may be required as a result of this Amendment, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 503571. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed for such purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

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